

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00
ICAE-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 SAA-01 /086 W
-----126252 131224Z /53

O P 131135Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8689
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM
CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
COMSIXTHFLT
CTF SIX ZERO
CTF SIX ONE
CTF SIX TWO
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN
DIA WASHDC
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3911

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS PINT MILI ASEC LE
SUBJ: LEBANESE SITUATION: JULY 13, 1200 HOURS LOCAL

REF: BEIRUT 3883 (DTG 121300Z JUL 78)

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: SHAKY CEASE-FIRE CONTINUES TO HOLD GENERALLY,
ALTHOUGH ONE SOURCE SAYS CHRISTIANS MORTARED SYRIAN POSITIONS IN
HASMIYAH. KAMAL AL-ASAD SAID SARKIS' RESIGNATION IS "NOT IMMI-
NENT." CAMILLE CHAMOUN ADDRESSED A SCATHING OPEN LETTER TO
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PRESIDENT SARKIS. THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT CRITICIZED SARKIS FOR
NOT WITHDRAWING HIS THREAT TO RESIGN. END SUMMARY.

2. CEASE-FIRE STILL HOLDING.

A. SHAKY CEASE-FIRE CONTINUES TO HOLD GENERALLY. ACCORDING
TO ONE SOURCE CLOSE TO SYRIANS, HOWEVER, CHRISTIANS FIRED FIFTEEN

MORTAR ROUNDS AT SYRIAN POSITIONS IN HASMIYAH DURING THE NIGHT OF JULY 12.

B. THERE HAS BEEN SOME IMPROVEMENT IN THE SECURITY SITUATION IN EAST BEIRUT, ALTHOUGH SNIPERS CONTINUE TO PARALYZE SOME NEIGHBORHOODS. A FEW SHOPS HAVE REOPENED. A FEW PEOPLE ARE RISKING THE JOURNEY BETWEEN EAST AND WEST BEIRUT. NEVERTHELESS, A SNIPER WOUNDED A MAN WHO TRIED TO GO FROM WEST BEIRUT TO THE PORT ON JULY 13.

C. THE PHALANGE PARTY VOICE OF LEBANON RADIO REPORTED ON JULY 12 THAT LEBANESE SECURITY FORCES WOULD BEGIN TAKING OVER SECURITY DUTIES FROM THE ARAB DETERRENT FORCES IN "SENSITIVE PARTS" OF EAST BEIRUT. (ISF TOOK UP POSITIONS ON THE QARANTINA BRIDGE ON JULY 11. SEE PRVIOUS SITREP.)

3. RESIGNATION STILL FROZEN.

PRESIDENT SARKIS HAS STILL NOT WITHDRAWN HIS THREAT TO RESIGN. SPEAKER KAMEL AL-ASAD AFTER MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT JULY 12 SAID THE LATTER'S RESIGNATION WAS "NOT IMMINENT."

4. CHAMOUN BLASTS SARKIS.

CAMILLE CHAMOUN ADDRESSED A SCATHING OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT ELIAS SARKIS ON JULY 12, IN WHICH HE CALLED ON SARKIS TO EXPLAIN
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THE REASONS WHICH PROMPTED HIS "DECISION" TO RESIGN (SEPTTEL). CHAMOUN SAID THAT IF THE DECISION WAS TO PROTEST THE SYRIAN SHELLING OF EAST BEIRUT LAST WEEK, "IT WAS YOUR DUTY TO EXPLAIN THE SITUATION TO PUBLIC OPINION AND DEMAND THE DEPARTURE OF THE DETERRENT FORCES, INSTEAD OF DEPARTING YOURSELF."

CHAMOUN SAID THE RESIGNATION WAS NOT THE ACTION OF A CAPTAIN WHO DOES EVERYTHING IN HIS POWER TO SAVE HIS SHIP OR GO DOWN WITH IT, AND ADDED: "THE CHOICE IS YOURS; YOU CAN EITHER BE A FULL LEBANESE OR JOIN THE RANKS OF THE HALF-LEBANESE."

5. NATIONAL MOVEMENT STATEMENT.

THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT ON JULY 12 ISSUED A STATEMENT CHARGING THAT PRESIDENT SARKIS' FAILURE TO WITHDRAW HIS INTENTION TO RESIGN WAS GIVING THE "ISOLATIONISTS" (THE PHALANGE AND NATIONAL LIBERAL PARTIES) THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESS AHEAD WITH THEIR PARTITION PLAN. THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT CALLED ON THE PRESIDENT TO WITHDRAW HIS RESIGNATION IMMEDIATELY AND ASKED HIM TO IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING PROGRAM:

A. TAKEOVER BY THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OF ALL POSITIONS OF

THE "PARTITIONIST FORCES."

B. ADOPTION OF A COMPREHENSIVE SECURITY PLAN WHICH WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE ARAB DETERRENT FORCES UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF THE PRESIDENT.

C. REBUILDING OF THE LEBANESE ARMY IN A WAY THAT WOULD FREE IT FROM CONFESSIONAL HEGEMONY.

D. ESTABLISHMENT OF A GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE IN WHICH ALL FACTIONS WOULD PARTICIPATE EQUALLY.

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